and Scheduled Tribes is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Central Assistance Released	
	Madhya Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh
1994-95	725.23	386.9588
1995-96	820.89	1669.82
1996-97	1982.79	2070.823

Procurement of Wheat

1101. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether none of the wheat procurement centres has been able to achieve its target and the farmers are compelled to adopt other crops than wheat cultivation and the situation is alarming due to this reason;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) The procurement of wheat under Price Support Scheme is voluntary in nature for the farmers. As such, no target of procurement of wheat is fixed.

A quantity of 92.63 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured for Central Pool upto 21.7.97 in the current 1997-98 Rabi Marketing Season as against 81.83 lakh tonnes procured in the previous season 1996-97.

The All India Production of wheat during 1996-97 crop year is likely to be about 68.71 million tonnes, which is higher by 9.73% than the production of 62.62 million tonnes achieved in 1995-96 crop year.

The MSP is fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices which takes into account the cost of inputs and all other relevant factors for determining a remunerative price for agricultural produce. The interests of the farmers are thus fully protected.

Inventory Holding in Super Bazar

1102. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 710 dated November 26, 1996 regarding inventory holding in Super Bazar and state:

(a) whether the level of inventory holding has come down without affecting the sales of the Super Bazar;

(b) if so, the details of the inventory holdings and the sales from October, 1996 to June 30, 1997, Department-wise and month-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Super Bazar is to recover the amount from its debtors;

(e) if so, the details with amounts outstanding against each one of them as on June 30, 1997 and since when the same is outstanding;

(f) whether the efforts have been made by the Super Bazar to recover these dues;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the manner in which the inventory holding compare with the Kendriya Bhandar, Department-wise and month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by Super Bazar the turnover of Super Bazar during year 1996-97 was to the tune of Rs. 141.05 crores as against Rs. 139.48 crores during the previous year. Similarly, the inventory holding during 1996-97 (in the month of March) was Rs. 9.63 crores against Rs. 9.89 crores during previous year. The consolidated monthwise position of sales and inventory holding is as under:—

Month	Sale	Inventory Holding
1	2	3
1996		
October	1087.50	1130.32
November	1114.49	1152.17
December	1127.48	1138.12

1	2	3
1997		
January	1209.05	1044.10
February	1228.36	1015.99
March	1922.99	812.29
April	944.28	968.92
May	1062.31	1055.39
June (approx)	943.00	1100.00

(c) From the figures given above, it can be seen that Super Bazar has continued to maintain inventory holding equivalent to the sales except for the month of June, 1997 where the sales have gone down by around Rs. 2.00 crores as a result of which the inventory holding has increased. The decrease in the sale was due to inadequate supply of Palmolein oil by Hindustan Vegetable Oils Ltd. for want of stocks with them.

(d) and (e) An amount of Rs. 7.83 crores is recoverable from the various government organisations/ Public Sector Undertakings as on 30.6.1997.

(f) and (g) The Regional Distribution Centre (RDC) Managers/Branch Incharges have been instructed by Super Bazar to expedite the recoveries.

(h) The comparative figures of monthwise inventory holding of Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar are not available. However, the inventory holding of the two organizations are determined by several factors which are not common to them.

Inland Fishery Projects

1103. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted some projects for approval regarding strengthening of Inland Fishery Marketing infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, the cost thereof; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh had submitted so far 6 projects for Inland Fish Marketing Scheme at a total cost of Rs. 431 lakh at the following places:—

1. Ghaziabad;
2. Bareilly;
3. Lucknow;
4. Gorakhpur;
5. Varanasi; and
6. Allahabad.

(c) All the above mentioned projects have been accorded approval by the Central Government.

Life Saving Drugs

1104. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the essential life saving drugs are not available in the market which are causing a lot of inconvenience to the people of North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are keeping a watch in this matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure that essential life saving drugs are made available in the market of North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) Government is operating a system whereby localised shortage of medicines is reported by the State Drug Controllers to the concerned manufacturer under intimation to this Department i.e. shortages are monitored at State level. The Department, however, on the basis of reports received in regard to shortages, takes up the matter with the concerned manufacturers for ensuring speedy availability of the medicines in the areas concerned.